

From: flapolecat@juno.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:27pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Gentlemen (and Ladies):

I wish to comment on the settlement. It is in the best interest of the country, the government and in particular small business people such as me, to stop this exercise. There will always be the "have's and the have not and there will always be some one who feels that they have been wronged. If you, in your infinite wisdom, tell me that I can not innovate because it may offend my neighbor, I will stop, and America will stop.

It is reasonable to rectify a problem once identified but not to make it retroactive to when the problem did not exist. As new things emerge, new problems will be the result. I, personally, did not fully understand the problem. I understand the concern of the competition and the urge to "protect" their turf, but a law suit when the only crime was to be smarter than those before us?

Playing this game only hurts the people who work for, invest in, and use Microsoft products. I find they are a very responsible provider of free support and very competitive in their pricing. I recently purchased a Quicken 2002 program. It would not load properly in my machine and the literature said "there may be a charge of 95 cents a minute for technical advice. I sent the program back. If it were Microsoft, there would be "fixes" on the Internet. When you are good there are many who will be jealous but allowing them the use of the "law" to satisfy their hurt feelings is dangerous for our country.

I am 66 years old and have worked for private industry and the government (NASA) for most of those years. I am presently retired and find a lot of enjoyment using my computer(s). I use a multitude of programs and usually rate them by the amount of support they offer. Some are good and the rest go by the way side.

Please consider all the implications in your decision.

Thank you

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